In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for machine-milking ~~of an~~ a dairy animal ~~such as a cow, wherein~~ without substantially increasing milking time, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a standard pressure changing phase duration in which no changes to pressure changing speed rates are made;

generating a pulsed vacuum ~~is generated~~ in a pulse chamber of a teat cup ~~(3)~~ by altering the vacuum in the pulse chamber during ~~the~~ pressure changing phases, ~~characterized in that the~~;

controlling a pressure curve ~~is controlled at least~~ for the duration of one pressure changing phase ~~(a, c) in~~ with at least two pressure changing speed rates; and

limiting the total duration for the pressure changing phase, with at least two pressure changing speed rates, to not substantially exceed the defined standard pressure changing phase duration.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of controlling the pressure curve ~~is controlled~~ includes the step of:

adjusting the pulsed vacuum during the pressure changing phase ~~(a, c) by means of an adjusting unit~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of controlling the pressure curve ~~is controlled at least~~ includes the step of:

controlling the pulsed vacuum during the ventilation phase ~~(c)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of controlling the pressure curve ~~is controlled at least~~ includes the step of:

controlling the pulsed vacuum during the evacuation phase ~~(a)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the step of:

changing the pressure changing speed rates ~~of pressure changes within a time stage is~~ substantially continuously.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of controlling the pressure curve ~~is controlled in~~ comprises the steps of:

controlling a first stage and ~~in~~ a subsequent stage of ~~the~~ a ventilation phase ~~(c)~~ such that the pressure ~~curve~~ changing speed rate in the first stage is [[(]]substantially[[)]]flatter than in the subsequent stage.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of controlling pressure curve ~~is controlled in~~ includes the steps of:

controlling a first stage and ~~in~~ a subsequent stage of the evacuation phase ~~(a)~~ such that the pressure ~~curve~~ changing speed rate in the first stage is [[(]]substantially[[)]] steeper than in the subsequent stage.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ and further comprising the step of:

shifting from ~~the first to the second stage~~ one pressure changing speed rate to another pressure changing speed rate occurs while the pressure in the pulse chamber ~~is in the region of~~ when the liner ~~infolding pressure~~ is in contact with an animal's teat.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the step of:

controlling the ~~time~~ pressure curve ~~of at least one~~ for the duration of the pressure changing phase ~~(a, c) is adjusted in dependence on a valve characteristic of a valve (9) of the~~ comprises the step of: operating a pulsator valve ~~(1)~~ used in generating the pulsed vacuum.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, ~~wherein the~~ and further comprising the step of:

varying a free flow vacuum resistance ~~is varied toward~~ between the teat cup ~~(3)~~ and the pulsator valve.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, and further comprising the step of: ~~wherein the valve~~

changing a valve chamber cross-section of ~~a valve (9) of the~~ the pulsator valve ~~(1) is changed~~ to vary vacuum in the chamber.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, ~~wherein the~~ and further comprising the step of:

changing a valve chamber cross-section ~~of a valve (9)~~ of the pulsator valve ~~(1) is changed~~ in multiple stages.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, ~~wherein the~~ and further comprising:

continuously changing a valve chamber cross-section of ~~a valve (9) of~~ the pulsator valve ~~(1) is changed continuously~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the step of:

maintaining ~~the~~ a pulsator valve ~~is maintained~~ body of the pulsator valve in a floating position in at least one stage of ~~a~~ the pressure changing phase.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the step of:

maintaining ~~the~~ a pulsator valve body of the pulsator valve ~~is maintained~~ in a variable floating position in at least one stage of ~~a~~ the pressure changing phase.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the steps of:

measuring ~~the~~ pressure ~~is measured~~ in the pulse chamber; and

controlling ~~which forms an input signal of a component with the component supplying an output signal through which the~~ a pulsator actuator based on the pressure measurement ~~and/or the flow resistor is actuated~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A pulsator for a ~~milking means~~ milker unit for milking an animal ~~such as a cow~~ for alternatively connecting a vacuum source and a pressure source ~~(5)~~ to a pulse chamber of at least one teat cup, ~~(3), wherein a means is provided by means of which at least the~~ the pulsator comprising:

a controller for adjusting a pressure-time curve ~~can be controlled at least~~ during ~~one~~ a pressure changing phase ~~in~~ with at least two pressure changing speed rates wherein the time of the pressure changing phase does not exceed a time of a pressure changing phase of a predetermined pressure changing phase using no controlled changes in pressure changing speed rate.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 18, ~~wherein the device comprises at least one~~ and further comprising:

a timing element ~~by means of~~ for adjusting ~~which~~ the duration of ~~one~~ a stage of a pressure changing phase ~~(a, c) can be adjusted~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 18, wherein the controller controls the pressure curve ~~can be controlled at least~~ during the ventilation phase ~~(c)~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 18, wherein the controller controls the pressure curve ~~can be controlled at least~~ during the evacuation phase ~~(a)~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 18, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising:

a pulsator valve ~~is provided~~ having a variable ~~opening~~ valve chamber cross-section, the pulsator valve being in communication with the controller.

24. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim ~~18~~ 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~opening~~ valve chamber cross-section is discontinuously variable.

25. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~opening~~ valve chamber cross-section is variable in ~~multiple~~ a plurality of stages.

26. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 1~~9~~8, ~~characterized in that the device comprises at least one~~ and further comprising:

a valve ~~(9, 20, 21)~~ and ~~the time curve of~~ the pressure-time curve of the pressure changing phase ~~(a, c) can be adjusted~~ is adjustable in dependence on a valve characteristic of ~~said~~ the valve ~~(9, 20, 21)~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that the device comprises~~ and further comprising:

a pilot valve in communication with the controller; ~~(20)~~ and

a main valve in communication with the pilot valve ~~(21)~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that the device comprises at least one~~ and further comprising:

a direct valve in communication with the controller.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim ~~30~~ 23, ~~characterized in that said two~~ wherein the valve ~~openings have different~~ chamber defines a plurality of cross-sections.

32. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that the device comprises an element that is~~ and further comprising:

a nozzle ~~or a diaphragm~~ in communication with the controller.

33. (Currently Amended) The pulsator according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ and further comprising:

a pulsator valve in communication with the controller, the pulsator valve defining

a pulsator valve chamber; and

a valve closing element ~~is provided that interacts with the at least one~~ disposed in the pulsator valve ~~opening~~ chamber for movement therein.

34. (Canceled)